**Adopt a storm drain on your street to help protect local lakes and streams**

In 2019, a new Adopt-a-Drain program debuted across the Twin Cities metro area and Rochester, with a goal of engaging local residents to help prevent water pollution. Storm drains in our city help to protect neighborhoods against flooding, but they also flow to our city’s lakes and streams, carrying debris off the streets and into our water.

You can make a difference by volunteering just 15-minutes, twice a month, to keep your nearest storm drain clear of litter, leaves, grass clippings and dirt. Go to Adopt-a-Drain.org and use the map to find your neighborhood storm drains – then click and sign-up to adopt. Spend a few minutes each month picking up the garbage and debris near your drain and then go online to report your work so that we can measure our collective impact.

 To dispose of the waste you collect, separate it into three categories and place it in the appropriate receptacle: trash, recyclables (glass and plastic bottles, cans) and compostables (leaves and grass clippings). Sediment collected in the spring contains winter road salt and should be put in the trash.

Adopt a storm drain today to help protect our water and keep our neighborhoods clean: [www.Adopt-a-Drain.org](http://www.Adopt-a-Drain.org).